

4 April 1974

U-0010/DR

MEMORANDUM FOR DE

SUBJECT: Long Range Implications of World Oil Exploration

I have been struck recently by the broad ramifications of conflicts which develop over exploration for oil in what have hitherto been remote corners of the world. Cases in point are the Spratley and Paracel Island dispute and the problems developing from disagreement over the oil in the Aegean. It appears to me that we should prepare a study of the effect of the development of oil around the world on long range U.S. defense interests. As the world fuel shortage increases, the pace of exploration is bound to quicken and problems raised by moves toward exploration (as in the Aegean and Paracels/Spratleys) or subsequent to discovery (as in the Columbia/Venezuela dispute) can be expected to have profound implications on U.S. defense interests. I would like you to examine the possibilities for a study or estimate on this subject.

/s/ V. P. de Poix

V. P. de POIX  
Vice Admiral, USN  
Director

cc:  
DD  
CS  
SC  
DI